

In the claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An aluminum-based target ~~consisting of~~ comprising a plurality of aluminum alloy target members, ~~characterized in that the aluminum-based target has~~ which are joined at a joint in which the aluminum alloy target members have been joined with a friction stir welding method.
2. (ORIGINAL) The aluminum-based target according to claim 1, wherein the joint includes dispersed precipitates with diameters of 10 μm or smaller.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aluminum-based target according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the aluminum alloy comprises at least 0.5-7.0 at% of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of nickel, cobalt and iron, and the balance aluminum.
4. (ORIGINAL) The aluminum-based target according to claim 3, wherein the aluminum alloy further includes 0.1 to 3.0 at% carbon.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aluminum-based target according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the aluminum alloy further includes 0.5 to 2.0 at% silicon.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aluminum-based target according to claim 3 ~~any one of claims 3 to 5~~, wherein the aluminum alloy further includes 0.1 to 3.0 at% neodymium.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An aluminum-based target made by joining a plurality of aluminum alloy target members with each other, ~~characterized in that~~ at a joint wherein the joint has blow holes with diameters of 500 μm or smaller in an amount of 0.01-0.1 hole/ cm^2 .

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An aluminum-based target made through joining a plurality of aluminum alloy target members with each other, ~~characterized in that~~ at a joint wherein the joint does not have blow holes with diameters exceeding 500 μm .

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aluminum-based target according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the joint contains dispersed precipitates with diameters of 10 μm or smaller.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aluminum-based target according to claim 7 ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~, wherein the aluminum alloy comprises at least 0.5-7.0 at% of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of nickel, cobalt and iron, and the balance aluminum.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The aluminum-based target according to claim 7 ~~any one of claims 7 to 10~~, wherein the joint is formed with a friction stir welding method.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for manufacturing an aluminum-based target ~~characterized in that the method~~ which comprises the steps of:

abutting end ~~faces~~ parts of one side of the aluminum alloy target members with each other; and

arranging a probe for friction stir welding at an abutted part to cause relative circulation movement between the probe and the abutted part, and producing a plastic flow in the abutted part by a generated frictional heat, and joining the aluminum alloy target members.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method for manufacturing an aluminum-based target according to claim 12, wherein the aluminum alloy target members are joined from both sides of ~~the~~ front side and back side of the aluminum alloy target members.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method for manufacturing an aluminum-based target according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein adjacent abutted parts are joined in the same moving direction of a probe from a start point to an end point.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method for manufacturing an aluminum-based target according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, wherein the adjacent abutted parts are joined in the opposite moving direction of a probe from the other, from a start point to an end point.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method for manufacturing an aluminum-based target according to claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~, wherein a traveling distance per revolution of a the probe is 0.5 to 1.4 mm.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method for manufacturing an aluminum-based target according to claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 16~~, wherein the relative density of the aluminum alloy target member is 95% or higher.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An~~ The aluminum-based target obtained through ~~any of the manufacturing methods, which methods~~ the method according to claim 12 ~~claims 12 to 17~~.

19. (NEW) The aluminum-based target according to claim 8, wherein the joint contains dispersed precipitates with diameters of 10 μm or smaller.

20. (NEW) The aluminum-based target according to claim 8, wherein the aluminum alloy comprises at least 0.5-7.0 at% of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of nickel, cobalt and iron, and the balance aluminum.